A briefe discourse of the most renowned actes and right valiant conquests of those puisant Princes, called the Nine worthies:

WHEREIN IS DECLARED their seuerall proportions and dispositions, and what Armes euerie one gaue, as also in what time ech of them liued, and how at the length they ended their liues.

Compiled by RICHARD LLOYD Gentleman.

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collated & perfect

BIBLIOTHECA BODLEIANA

THOMAS BROMLE.

To God giue honour due, feare him aboue all things:
He is the Lord of Lords, and onelie King of Kings.
Obey the Princes lawes, the poore do not denie:
Make peace where discord is, remember you must die.
Auoyde vnruled wrath, iudge iustlie to ech wight:
Set naught by worldly pelfe, in the respect of right.

Be stout vnto the proud, and gentle to the meeke:
Reproue the wicked sorte, reuengement do not seeke.
Of flattering toongs beware, let none your secrets kno:
Manie seeme a freend, yet proue a verie fo.
Looke you attempt nothing, but wey the end before:
Eschue ech vice, and loue ech vertue euermore.

TO THE RIGHT HONORABLE AND MY GOOD LORD and Maister Sir *Thomas Bromley* Knight, Lord Chauncellour of England, and one of hir highnes priuie counsell.

PEruſing ouer ſundry bookes of volumes large and great,
Which of the worthy feates of Fame, & Martial actes intreat,
Of mightie Princes of the world, accompliſhed of yore,
In diuers kingdomes vpon earth, and countreis heretofore.
I finde in auncient Hiſtories, by learned men laid downe
The conqueſtes of the *Worthies* nyne to be of moſt renowne:
Who are by famous Regiſter enrowled in record
The greateſt and mightieſt conquerers, and *Worthies* of the world:
As well for their couragiouſnes, as magnanimities,
Their valiantnes, their wiſdomes rare, and Princely pollicies:
As for the wonders maruelous, and miracles alſo
In their exploytes, and their affaires, which God for them did ſhow.
How God exalted them on hie, to earthly dignitie,
And gaue them Kings and kingdomes by tryumphant victorie:
Appointing them to be his ſcourge, the wicked to confound,
And their vnrighteous ſeede vnroote, with ſword from of the ground.
How God remained to the end, with them that godly weare,
And proſpered all their attempts, which him did loue and feare.
How other were amid their pryde, in higheſt roome of all,
For that they had forgotten God, brought to a ſodaine fall.
As for example: *Ioſua* the Iudge of *Iſraell*,
The firſt of all theſe conquerers, in vertue did excell.
And doughtie *Dauid* in like ſort, in whom God did delight,
From ſhepheard being made a King, was righteous in Gods ſight.
And noble *Iudas Machabeus*, theſe three *Iewes* by byrth,
And feared God continually, while they did liue on earth.
Wherfore the Lord wrought miracles vpon their enemies,
As ſhalbe afterwardes diſcuſt heere in theſe Hiſtories.

Then

Then *Hector* fearce the *Phrigian* Prince, and *Alexander* great,
And *Iulius Cæsar* painyms all, their God they did forgeat:
For which, amid their moſt eſtate, when they were higheſt of all,
Ambicion, Pride, and Auarice, gaue each of them a fall.
Then *Arthur*, *Charle-mayne* and *Guy*, were chriſtians as I geſſe,
The one was plagde in his moſt pompe, for his laſciuiouſneſſe:
The other two were godly men, wherfore they dyed well,
As in their ſeuerall Hiſtories the Sequell plaine doth tell.
A briefe of all whoſe liues, I haue in meeter with my pen
Compiled out of ſundry bookes of famous learned men.
And as I read of them alſo, according to my skill,
I haue all their proportions depainted with my quill:
And drawne the armes and cogniſaunce in euery ſeuerall ſhield,
Which when they liued vpon the earth they bare vnto the field:
The yeare & time where they did raigne, and when & where they died,
And what they were enclined too, I haue herein diſcried:
Beſeeching that your honour wil accept in gentle part
This litle booke which I preſent, to ſhew my faithfull hart.
And when your leaſure ſo ſhall ſerue, vouchſafe I humbly craue,
To read it ouer once or twiſe, and where I erred haue,
That crime or fault committed ſo, let ignorance excuſe,
Blame not the man that meaneth well, but blame his ſimple Muſe,
Record the matter in your minde, although this ſtyle be baſe,
Then ſhall your Lordſhip plainly ſee before your preſent face,
A myrror of mans mortall life, by them compared right,
Which well may be a looking glaſſe, to euery liuing wight:
And chiefly to the higher ſort, whom God ſhall pleaſe t'aduaunce,
In any wiſe here vpon earth to rule or gouernaunce:
To learne therby to know the Lord, who liues eternally,
Not to forget their owne eſtates, through pride nor ſurquedry:
To abandon wicked vice away, and vertue to embrace,
That to their latter end they may run out a happy race.
Thus humbly I do take my leaue, and hartily do pray,
That God will graunt you *Neſtors* yeares, in vertues honour ay.

Your humble Seruant,
Richard Lloyd.

A Description of the bodily proportion of the Nine worthies, with what Armes euerie one of them gaue.

IOsua *was of good ſtature ſtrong and hardy to endure,*
In iudgement iuſt, godly, and wiſe, and cruell to his enemies:
Right fortunate and happy in fight, in vertue was his whole delight,
He bare ſables into fielde, a Batte *diſplayed in his ſhield.*

HEctor *was indifferent tall, well compact and ſtrong withall,*
Courteous, quicke, and deliuere of might, in armes a very goodly Knight:
His head was white and curld I finde, his beard was white, he was ſandblinde,
And ſomewhat he did liſpe alſo, a gentler wight no man might know:
He bare two Lyons combatand, or in aſure (I vnderſtand.)

DAuid *was but little of bone, in courage ſtout as any one,*
Of his complexion browne was he, addicted vnto venerie:
With goodly eyes the ſcripture tell, this man in wiſedome did excell,
And was both godly and fortunate, and courteous to euery eſtate:
He bare a harpe for his enſine, or in aſure as bookes define.

ALexander *(as I reade) of perſon was not tall in deed,*
But made after the middle ſort, and of a very princely part:
Quicke and nimble ſwift and light, valiant fearce, and happy in fight.
Of his complexion white and redde, on the left ſide bowing his head:
Very proud and liberall, and giuen much to wine withall:
This puiſant prince and conqueror bare in his ſhield a Lyon or,
Which ſitting in a chaire hent a battel axe in his paw argent.

IVdas Machabeus *was ſtrong, bigge of limbes, ſquare and long,*
Of noble courage, godly and wiſe, forward againſt his enemies,
Fortunate and happie in fight, meeke and gentle to each wight:
In field two Rauens he did beare, in pale proper which ſables were.

IVlius Cæsar *sklender was, and leane likewise of body and face,*
Pale and megre to beholde, wise and learned, stout and bolde:
Ambitious and hauty of minde, of nature courteous and kinde:
Displayed an Eagle he did beare, sables in or as may appeare:

ARthur *was of body square, of visage grim, and full of haire:*
Strong and bold, and liberall, of nature gentle ouer all,
And stout vnto his enemy, but giuen to adultery:
In martiall acts he did delight, and loued euery noble Knight:
He thirteene crownes did beare also, or in asure against his foe.

CHarles *was well proportioned, strong and wise, and doughtie of deed:*
Of learning: lore a fauourer, and very pollitike in warre:
Mercifull and fortunate, and gentle vnto euery estate:
This king bare the Ierusalem *shield, pald with the imperiall coat in field.*

GVI *was tall and large of limbe, none in his dayes were like to him:*
Of good complexion, seemely of face, and liberall in euery place:
Valiant, strong, and venterous, godly, kind, and courteous:
He or and asure bookes discrie, a cheueron ermine bare checkie.

VTERE·IVSTITIA·SI·VIR·VIS·IVSTVS·HABERI·

THE HISTORIE OF THE conquests of the noble and vertuous Duke IOSVA.

I Am the worthie conquerour Duke Iosua the great,
Whom God did ordeine and appoint to raigne in Moises seate:
To lead his people Israel to the land of behest,
Which God to Moises promised, as scriptures haue expresst.
When he dwelt in the wildernesse, and had miraculouslie
Escaped through the great red sea, from Pharaos tyrannie.
Two thousand and two hundreth yæres, with fiue and thirtie more:
After God had made the world I raigned: and before
The daie that Iesus Christ was borne, in bookes as plaine appeeres.
One thousand and seauen hundreth and seuen and twentie yeeres.
A Iewe I am by due discent, of such exceeding fame:
As through the world shall florish ay the honor of my name.
Much fauour with the Lord I found, whose thundering voice full oft,
Appeared vnto me on earth from scarlet skies aloft:
Commanding me nothing to dread, but boldlie on to fight:
Assuring me the vpper hand of euerie liuing wight.
And not to part from me, where so I did my armie lead:
Yea, and to giue me all the lands whereon my feete should tread.
The great flood Iordan he dried vp for me and all my power:
And brought vs safelie through the same, and all within an hower.
Diuiding with his mightie arme the waues most wonderfullie:
On either side as we did passe, like hils or mountains hie.
The loftie walles of Ierico fell at my praiers downe:
Through which I entred valiantly, and quite destroid the towne.
I put ech woman, man, and child, therein vnto the sword:
As I had in commandement by Gods most holie word.
No liuing soule escapt awaie out of that bloodie strife:
But Rahab and hir familie, to whom I graunted life.
For that she in hir house did hide the men I sent to view

The Citie: and did them conuey from those that did pursue.
I sackt the citie of Ayeke, Bethoron and Bethell:
And manie mightie cities more: which now were long to tell.
I slew there people more and lesse, with famine, sword, and fire:
For God appointed me his scourge, to accomplish his iust ire.
The Lord at my request did stay the sun amid the skie:
While I cauld manie hundereths and thousands for to die.
Whose numbers were so infinite, that God did also raine
Great stones from heauen on their heads, and slue them on the plaine,
As they did flie before my face euen from Bethoron,
Untill they to Elaka came, that few escapt or none.
I chased great and mightie kings to hide them on the earth
In caues: and there to curse the time of their vnhappie birth.
And burnt their cities, townes, and towers vnto the verie ground:
And they themselues I hangd on trees, in place where I them found.
And after threw their carcases into the caues againe:
And rouled thereunto great stones, where yet their bones remaine.
And at the water of Merom I killed with my hands,
Thousands of mine enimies, whose number as the sands
Were gathered against Israell: but God the Lord of might,
Deliuered them all vnto me, not one but died in fight.
Their horses and their chariots eke I burned and destroide:
Their countries, townes, and cities all, which latelie they enioide.
Wherein were one and thirtie kings, all which with one accord,
Were enimies to the liuing Lord, and his precepts abhord.
Whose names, in the old testament the scripture plaine doth sho
In order written: the first was the King of Ierico.
The kings of Ay and Ierimoth, of Lachis and Hebron:
The kings of Ierusalem, of Gaser and Eglon.
The kings of Dabir and of Cred, of Gader and Horma,
Of Magedo and Makeda, and the King of Libna.
The kings of Hepher and Bethell, the kings of Adolam:
The kings of Apheck and Thaphnah, the King of Iackanam.
The kings of Laseron and Madam, and the King of Gilgall:
The King of Simron Merom eke I brought to vtter thrall.
The kings of Hasor and of Dor, of Cades and Tenach:
The kings which raigned in Ascaph, and the kings of Thersach.
The Enakites I ouercame which in the mountaines dwelled:
I put them all to cruell death, bicause they then rebelled.

Neither did I cease continually ech liuing wight to kill,
Till all the land of Canaan was subiect to my will.
The confines of which coast doth reach, from the wide wilderneſſe
And deſert walks of Libanon, to the floud of Euphrates.
And also vnto the greeke sea whereas the sun goeth downe:
These countries all I conquered vnto my high renowne.
And plast my people in the same, who did the land posſeſſe:
And liued ioifully therein with reſt and quietneſſe.
Where I long raigned ouer them by the Lords onely grace,
In vertue, honour, and much fame, and led a happie race:
Instructing them in God his lawes, and offering sacrifice
Vnto the Lord of thankesgiuing, for his gifts manie wise.
At last vnweldie age approcht, and dreadfull death beeing prest,
Did bring my carcaſſe to my graue, where yet my bodie reſts,
In mine owne Citie which I built, that Thamnath Sereh hight:
Beeing fiue score yeeres and ten of age, my soule with Angels bright.

FINIS.

An Example of this former Hiſtorie.

BY this renowned prince we ſee, and by his life we vnderſtand,
How vertuous men continuallie proſper in that they take in hand:
And how the godlie floriſh ſtill, poſſeſſing all things at their will.

For in the ſcripture is diſcride the vertues like the planted tree,
Which groweth by the riuer ſide ſhall floriſh in proſperitie:
And God his Lord ſhall him defend in all his dooings to the end.

The lord the righteous ſhal vphold, for why: his waies to him are known
God ſhall him bleſſe a thouſand fold, he ſhall be neuer ouerthrowne:
He ſhall for ay the land poſſeſſe, and liue therein in quietneſſe.

His ſeede for euer ſhall endure, and their inheritance enioy,
What ſo the wicked do procure, ſhall worke the righteous no annoy:
For in ech perill God will ſee that he ſhall not confounded be.

And by theſe heathen kings alſo, whom he did conquer and deſtroie,
We find, as ſcriptures plainly ſho, of wicked men the fading ioie:
Who like a floure, ſhall withered be, and blowen quite out of memorie.

And as the ſmoke conſumes awaie, or as the fat of lambes do melt,
So the vngodlie ſhall decay, and all the places where they dwelt:
The ſword ſhall pearce through their owne harts, which they prepard to (others ſmarts.
And their vnrighteous ſeede likewiſe ſhall be vnrooted and out worne
From of the earth before mens eies, as though they neuer had bene born:
And all that they poſſeſſe or ought, like chaffe with wind ſhall weare to (nought.
Wherefore, from euerie euill flie, abandon vice and wickedneſſe;
Do that is good, liue vertuouſlie, and ſo thou ſhalt the land poſſeſſe
In happie ſtate: and after thee thy children continually.

FINIS.

SED · PROSPICE · FINEM · AGREDIARE · NIHIL · SVBITO

THE HISTORIE OF THE

conquests of the mightie Prince and conquerour HECTOR.

I Am Hector the peereleſſe prince king Priamus eldeſt ſonne:
Manie a land through force of armes and prowesſe, I haue wonne.
In Panonie my puiſſance great I haue approoud in fight:
In Greece and Phrigia I haue ſlaine, and conquerd many a knight.
I am that martiall knight of fame, which ſlew ſo many a Greeke,
When they were preſt for Helens rape to Troie reuenge to ſeeke.
Being furniſhed with eleuen ſcore ſailes and fortie for the warre:
All full of armed ſoldiours, aſſembled from a farre.
And threeſcore noble kings and nine, which landed before Troie:
With minds conſpired all in one, the Troians to deſtroie.
At whoſe arriuall firſt on ſhore I met them in the field:
Where, at one time with my owne hand, a thouſand men I kild.
Beſide the great and mightie King, which Protheſilaus hight:
Whom I did cleaue vnto the chinne, in all the armies ſight.
And ſix and twentie princes mo, during that ten yéeres ſtrife:
When I did méete them daie by daie, I reaud them of their life:
As Patroclus of Phithia King, on Galathee my ſtéed:
With deadlie ſpeare through plate and maile, his hart bloud I did ſhéd.
And Lufor, and Boetes kings, and King Archilogus:
And Merion the King of Creete, and King Epiſtrophus.
And Prothenor of Boece King, and King Lepedemon:
Deipeynor and Phidippus fearce, the King of Calcedon.
Dorius and Polixenus, and King Zantippus éeke:
And Serpedon the famous prince, and much renowned Gréeke.
Leonteus of Lariſſa King, and Polybetes ſtout:
And Alphinor a valiant wight, amongſt the gréekiſh rout.
Philete and Letabonis, Iſideus and Menon:
Humerus and Maymentus eke, with péereleſſe Palamon.
Schedius King of Phocis land, in open field I ſlew:
Whoſe ſuddaine death full manie a Gréeke with bléeding hart did rew.
King Phillis and King Octamen, I ſtrake ſo mortallie:

With

With deadlie speare, that therewithall they died presentlie.
The mightie Agamemnon king I threw vnto the ground:
And strong Achilles felled oft with manie a mortall wound.
Proud Diomed and Aiax fierce, I met oft in this broile:
With manie Grækish captaines more, and gaue them all the foile.
And so continued six yeeres space amongst my mortall foes,
Most like a valiant conquerour, still dealing deadlie bloes:
And chasing them with bloodie blade vnto the verie strand:
Where, some did leape into the seas, to shun my heauie hand.
And there were drenched in the waues most miserablie:
Wherefore the Grecks among themselues complained secretlie,
What slaughter and occision I made vpon their men:
And for redresse thereof, they held a priuie counsell then.
Wherein they did conspire my death in this vnknightly wise:
That when I came into the field against mine enimies,
Achilles should with manie knights awaite me to oppresse:
When I were occupied in fight to bring me to distresse.
Affirming otherwise, while I in Troie aliue did raigne,
Unpossible it were for them the victorie to attaine.
Yet serud their treason, for a while to small effect or none:
I did distresse them (as before) and killed manie a one:
Till casually vpon a day I marched to the field
In former wonted guise: to proue my force with speare and shield:
Although forewarned by my wife, who by a dreame did see,
That if I that day went to field, my life should ended be:
Where I like mightie Mars himselfe flew downe on euerie side,
And brake their raies and renges all where I did go or ride:
And kild anone two mightie kings before Achilles face,
Who: seeking to reuenge their death, I wounded in that place:
And forced him to withdraw himselfe to bind his mortall sore:
By this the fight with fierce assault increased more and more.
At last by chaunce I slew a King, whose armour for the nones
Was richly embrodred and set forth with pearls and pretious stones.
The sight whereof did so inflame my hart with couetousnesse,
That for to spoile him of the same my selfe I did addresse:
Forecasting naught what might befall, nor hauing no regard
To shun the traine of my mischaunce, which was for me prepard:
Nor fearing thousands of my foes, nor waying anie frend,
Although the state of their welfare on me did all depend,

But

But hent him vp vpon my ſtéede, and rode out of the throng:
And for my better eaſe my ſhield vpon my backe I flong,
While I did ſpoile him of his wéedes, careleſſe of anie wight,
My naked breſt diſarmed then, Achilles had a ſight
How I was buſied: and therefore from couert where he laie,
Towards me him to reuenge he toke the readie waie:
And ſodainlie with fatall ſpeare or that I might aduert,
He came vnwares behind my backe, and ſtroke me to the hart.
Thus died I through auarice, whom thouſands could not kill,
Till mine owne onelie wilfulneſſe my ſelfe did fondlie ſpill.
Whereby (alas) it came to paſſe, my countrie did it rue:
For ſhortlie after to them all deſtruction did enſue.
My bodie was brought into Troie with wofull ſhowts and cries,
With piteous plaints & gréeuous grones, whoſe eccho pearſt the ſkies.
And in Apollos temple enterd and cloſed déepe in claie
After the Paynims rites, beeing a Paynim in my laie.
Two thouſand and ſeuen hundreth yéares, adioining fifteene mo,
Since the creation of the world I raigne, as bookes do ſho.
And before Chriſt Jeſus birth one thouſand full compleat,
Two hundreth fortie yeeres and ſeuen, this hapt in Troie the great.

FINIS.

An Example of this former Hiſtorie.

THis hiſtorie doth plaine expreſſe, and witneſſe vnto euerie wight
The wofull end of couetouſneſſe, and ſuch as haue therein delight:
And ſheweth both the harme & ſcath, which wicked auarice brings (and hath.
And ſcriptures truly do record, who ſo at leaſure them will ſcan,
Nothing to be more deeply abhord, nor yet worſe than a couetous man:
Nothing ſo wicked, no vice ſuch, as to loue money ouer much.

For he that loueth gold ſo well, in Eccleſiaſticus I find,
For money hath his ſoule to ſell, ſo auarice the hart doth blind:
Record of Diues, who denied, poore Lazarus what time he died.

Saint Paule writing to Timothie in his epiſtles, doth expreſſe
The wofull end and miſerie of ſuch as dwell in couetouſneſſe:
Which ſaith, he drowneth manie a one, in ſorrow and deſtruction.

How manie vices do proceed from couetouſneſſe that wicked crime?
What Kings and kingdoms do we read to be deſtroid from time to time?
What bloody murther, what diſtreſſe, what enuie comes through coue- (touſneſſe?
What rigor, wrong, and periurie, what rauine, and what mortall ſtrife,
What malice, and what crueltie, and finallie, what loſſe of life
Breeds couetouſnes to euerie ſuch, as loue this worldly mucke too muche

This noble prince and conquerour a good example well may be,
Whom couetouſnes did quite deuoure, beeing drowned in this miſerie:
But Gods iuſt iudgement hath prepard, for euerie ſinne a due reward.

FINIS.

NON · IN
NEC · SEMEN · EGENVM
VSTVM

THE HISTORIE OF THE

conquests of the vertuous and valiant King DAVID.

I Am Dauid most doughtie of deede, the King of Israell:
By Samuel the prophet great annointed there to dwell.
A Iew I am in Bethlehem borne, and by Gods onelie grace
Promoted vp to regall rowme, though come but of meane race.
Next to Saule I ware the crowne, I had continually
Seuen and thirtie mightie men as captaines vnder me.
Whose names in the old testament in the bookes of the Kings
At large are written, and set forth with manie other things.
Peruse well the old testament, and marke the text aright:
Then thou shalt find that I am he in whom God did delight:
Of whom it pleased him to say, Behold in euerie part,
At last I haue found out a man according to my hart.
No prophet euer raignd on earth more greater than was I,
To whom the Lord did deigne to giue such spirit of prophesie:
Nor vnto whom my God vouchsafd so largelie to behight
Such ioifull promises: nor found more fauour in Gods sight.
First, in my childish yeares when I a shepheard was,
I slew a Lion with my hands, as he my sheepe did chase:
And kild a great and vglie Beare, which came in rauenous wise
Out of the wilderneſſe to spoile my flocke before mine eies.
And being by my father sent my brothers food to bring,
Who serued then as soldiours in field with Saule the King,
I slew the Giant Goliath, most lothlie to behold,
Who was from the Philistines sent on Israelites to scold:
And proudlie stood betweene the hosts trusting vnto his might,
And called vpon Israel to send him one to fight.
This man was captaine of their host, which then in Socohe lay,
He ware a coat of maile, which did fiue thousand sicles way:
And was six cubits large in length, and on his legges did weare
Boots of brasse: and on his brest a brasen shield did beare.

And

And in his hand a ſpeare he held, whoſe brazen head alſo
Did wey (as ſcriptures do declare) ſix hundred ſicles mo.
Which thing, when Saule the King beheld, he highlie eſteemed me:
And brought me home vnto his houſe his ſeruant for to be:
And gaue me his daughter to wife, for whom I paid in fight
Two hundred foreſkins of my foes, whom I ſlew through my might:
With manie a thouſand mo beſide, whereby my fame ſo ſprung
Throughout the land of Iſrael, that women on me ſung
In all the cities where I paſt, dauncing moſt ioifullie,
With fiddles and timbrels well tund to aduaunce my victorie,
Saieng: Dauid hath ten thouſand kild, and Saule one thouſand ſlaine:
Wherefore, the King was woonderous wroth, that I did ſo attaine
To worthie honour and renowne: and for this did conſpire
My death, by all the meanes he could in his outragious ire:
And often times he did attempt, when he tormented was
And vexed with the euill ſpirit, to ſlay me in the place:
But then I plaid vpon my harpe, and ſo I did expell
The wicked ſpirit, by Gods grace which in King Saule did dwell.
And yet, as ſoone as I did ceaſe, the ſpirit would him torment,
And then, to ſlay me as before againe he would attempt.
At laſt, to ſhun his wicked hand, by helpe of Ionathas,
I fled vnto the wilderneſſe, where I in ſorrow was
And deepe diſtreſſe for manie a day, oppreſt with hungers rage,
Vntill Ahimelech the prieſt my hunger did aſſwage:
And after fled to Achis King, thence to the deſert caue
Of Odolam: to Mazphah thence my ſelfe from Saule to ſaue.
To Engedi and Keilah, thence to the wilderneſſe
Of Pharan: thence to Zikelege, where I brought to diſtreſſe
Thouſands of Philiſtiens: at laſt King Saule was ſlaine:
And then, ouer all Iſrael I was elect to raigne:
And ruled as their ſoueraigne King with famous victorie,
Subduing great and mightie kings, and nations vnder me.
As the peruerſe Amalakites, which Zikelege did burne:
Whom I purſued ſo narrowlie, that few did backe returne:
The Syrians, and the Edomites, the Iebuſites likewiſe,
The Ieſurites, and Gerſites that did againſt me riſe:
The Philiſtines and Moabites, the tower of Sion ſeke,
And Iſboſeth the ſonne of Saule, who did the kingdome ſeke.
I ouercame Ieſby of Nob, a Giant fierce and fell,

Who had six fingers on ech hand, as scriptures truely tell.
And Saphon strong, whose fearefull lookes all Israel did dreed,
The ghastlie Giant I subdued, and causd his men to bleed.
Adadasor the mightie King a prisoner I did hold,
Bereauing him in battell strong of manie a shield of gold.
Unhappie Absalon my sonne, who thought ambitiouslie
To conquer me (although his sire) was brought to miserie:
Yea vnto such a wofull end, that others iustlie may
Example take: and learne by him their parents to obay.
For as he through the woods did flie my soldiours force to shun,
Who fiercly him pursued behind the field when they had wun,
His locks baeing long, the trees being low, the boughs crauld in his haire,
And pluckt him from his foming steed, and hangd him in the aire:
Where finally Ioab him found, and piteouslie him slew
With manie of his confederates, whose death I much did rue.
This wofull slaughter brought to end, I raigned quietly
Amongst my people manie a day, and found no enemie:
For God my Lord was on my side, whose force than should I feare:
Thus raigned I in Israel, and Hebron fortie yeare.
And in my crooked extreme age my bodie fell on sleepe,
And in the citie of Dauid lieth in earth inclosed deepe:
After the framing of the world two thousand and fiftéene,
Adding seuen hundreth yeres and ninetie, as I weene:
And one thousand yeeres also ere Jesus Christ was borne,
One hundreth fiftie yeeres and seuen expired out and worne.

FINIS.

An Example of this former Hiſtorie.

LO here behold a mirrour bright, wherein the reader well may find
Expreſſed, and ſet forth aright the vertues of a pacient mind:
And learne alſo himſelfe thereby, both meekenes and humilitie.

Which vertues being duely waide, ech liuing wight ought to imbrace:
For in the ſcriptures it is ſaide, and writ at large in manie a place
By the old prophets long time ſince, what vertue is in patience.

By patience (ſaith Salomon) a prince may ſoone be pacified,
And patience is a iuſt token whereby mans wiſedome is diſcried:
The patient man alſo (ſaith he) ſhall gouerne in proſperitie.

And Dauid this moſt vertuous King ſaith in his Pſalms: The patient
Out of his troubles God ſhall bring, he will not ſuffer him be ſhent:
For patience commeth of the Lord, euen as the prophet doth record.

In Eccleſiaſticus alſo the firſt chapter, the text doth ſay,
The patient will endure ech wo vntill the verie appointed day:
And then for him ſhall be prepard, for his meekenes, a due reward.

Saint Paule in his epiſtles writes of patience and humilitie,
And Iames thereof likewiſe endites in manie a text apparantlie:
Our ſauiour Chriſt did patience teach, when he himſelfe on earth did (preach.

Saieng (in Matthew as I find) Learne ye of me humilitie,
Bicauſe I humble am of mind, and ſuffer ech thing patientlie:
Againe he ſaith, The humble wight, ſhal be exalted to much might.

And in Saint Luke is written eeke, He hath plucked the mightie low,
And exalted the humble and meeke, what neede I more hereof to ſhow,
Since Chriſt himſelfe hath left behind, examples of a patient mind.

Whoſe patience and humilitie ech chriſtian ought to imitate,
For patience bringeth victorie, as proofe doth tell to euerie eſtate:
Record of this worthie of fame, whoſe patience declares the ſame.

FINIS.

NEMO · BEATVS * SEMPER · ERIT · FRAGILI · FORTVNA

THE HISTORIE OF THE great and famous conquerour King ALEXANDER.

I Am the great and worthie King, the prince of peereleſſe might,
The wide renowned conquerour which Alexander hight:
Sonne to the prince of Macedon, a man of noble fame,
Whom famous Phillip men did call, Olympias was my dame.
I was but twentie yeeres of age when firſt I ware the crowne,
And conquered the Athenians vnto my high renowne:
The Getes and Lacedemonians, the Argeans ſterne and ſtout,
The Thaulants and Anterians ſtrong on manie a hideous rout.
The Tribals I compeld to yeeld, all Greece I did ſubdew,
And thence I went to Helleſpont, beginning warres of new
In Aſia, where I did preuaile, and at one time did ſlay
Of Perſians twentie thouſand and two hundreth in one day:
There got I cities manie a one, as Sardes and Lydia,
Magneſia, Phrygia, Ephylos, Pamphylia and Caria,
Pyſidia, Lycia, and Gordyn, Helicarnaſus to,
Melyton and Celenas eke, with manie cities mo:
As Ancyre and Paphlagony, Solos and Malon,
Lyrneſus, Iſſon, Cebeſtus, with ſtrong Caſtabulon,
Thence paſt I to Cilicia, a countrie large and wide,
Where I ſubdued Darius King for all his pompe and pride,
Toke both his mother and his wife, put him to ſhamefull flight,
A hundreth thouſand Perſians and mo, I ſlew in fight.
Strato King of Arade I forſt on bowed knee
With all the Kings of Syria to yeeld themſelues to me.
The citie of Tyre I put to ſacke, the ſtrongeſt vnder ſunne,
Which neuer to this day was got ſince firſt the world begunne.
Then into Egypt forth I ſaild, from Egypt ouer Nyle:
From Nyle to Affricke, where I wan by conqueſt manie a mile.
I marched then to Araby a fertill ſoile in ſight,
Where great Darius toke his death with manie a worthie knight:
So paſſing ouer Euphrates and Tiger ſpeedilie,
I came at length to Babylon, which yeelden was to me.

Unto Armenia thence I marcht, and thence to Atrapene,
And so vnto Persepolis, thence to Paralecene:
From thence into the Mardons land I entred: where at length
That monsterous nation I subdude, & conquered through strength
The Medes: the Parthians and Spartans, the Thracians I subdude,
The Achaians and Boetians, the Cannians nothing rude
Besyra, Nisa, Pysides, and manie mo with these
I conquered through force of armes, quite to the Caspian seas.
And when at length I had atchieud Lyrcanias furthest band,
I passed then to Amason, and wan it with my hand.
From thence to Dranga forth I went, which countrie I destroid,
Compelling strong Nabarzanes to India thence to void.
The land of Aracosia I caused to yéeld to me,
Rude Acadera and Bactria I sacked valiantly
The citie of Cyroposis, all Scithia and Bubacen,
Basarians: Dahanes and Maurians, all these became my men.
To India then I toke the waie, which erst was won by none,
Nor entred in by any: but by Hercules alone.
Thence went I to mount Meroe, and thence to Dedala,
Which countries all I brought to wracke, with rich Amzaga.
Mount Arum I besieged long, and wan it with much fame,
Yet Hercules assaulted it, and could not sacke the same.
King Omphis, Abiasares, and Gamaxus kings of Inde
Did humbly yéeld themselues and theirs to do what I assignde.
Then passed I Hydaspis streames, where Porus king did raigne,
Who through my force was ouercome, and all his power slaine.
From thence: through desarts forth I went vnto the Sobians land,
To Sugdrians and Mallians: whom I conquerd with my hand.
And thence vnto the Oxidricans, where: at a siege alone
My selfe the citie entred in, and slue there manie one.
From thence vnto the Musicanes, and thence to Prestia cost:
From thence vnto Pathalia I did conuay mine host.
Thus when I had the furthest bonds in all the Orient kend,
And sawe my selfe a conquerer vnto the worlds end,
I sailed on the Ocean sea, where no man erst had béene:
There manie strange & wonderous things by me were heard & séene.
Some countries strange there I did find, with nations rude to sée,
All which I forst through dent of sword, to yéeld themselues to mée.
And when at last the raging sea, my passage did denie:
Right as a worthy conquerour againe returned I.

And

And marched backe to Babylon, triumphing as a God,
Where all the princes of the east for me made their abod.
There did I hold a paleament, almost of all the world:
For ouer all the orient I was the soueraigne Lord.
Wherefore I was so proud in hart, so pompous and elate,
That I did vtterlie forget my selfe, and my estate,
Onely attributing the fame of all my good successe,
And conquests in so short a space, to mine owne worthinesse,
And not contented yet therewith, did take presumptuouslie
Vpon my selfe the sonne of mightie Ioue to be.
But in my most prosperitie I had a soddaine fall,
I was by them betraied, whom I trusted best of all.
Casander, Phillip, and Iolla, these three did worke my fine
In Thessalus Medius house, with poison mixt in wine.
Thus died I through treasons traine of those I loued most:
Thus were my conquests latelie wonne within a moment lost.
Thus spiteful enuie threw me downe from fortunes statelie stage
Bereft of life, being but two and thirtie yeares of age:
My bodie was from Babylon to Memphis forth conuaide,
And thence to Alexandria by Ptolomeus aide:
Euen in the yeere of the world foure thousand, saue eight score,
And before that Christ was borne, one hundreth and two more:
A Paynim I am in beleefe, a Paynim eke by birth,
Accounted sonne to Iupiter, and now consumd to earth.

FINIS.

An Example of this former Historie.

WHere pride infected hath the hart of anie wight what so he be,
All vertue in him is laid apart, so great is prides peruersitie,
As witnesseth this worthie King, whose pride vntimely death did bring.

For pride through falſe preſumption made him ſo loftie and elate,
Beeing puffed with promotion, that he knew not his owne eſtate:
Nor tooke regard to anie wight, but truſted onelie in his might.

The honour due to God on hie he attributed to his owne name,
And in his ſwelling ſurquedrie the Lord he robbed of the ſame:
Wherefore amid his moſt renowne, God for his folly threw him downe.

For by the prophet Ieremie the Lord himſelfe euen thus doth ſay,
I will to none giue my glorie: and eke by the prophet Eſay,
The haughtie I will pull downe low, and cauſe the meeke harted to bow.

To Moiſes eke in Exodus, A ielous God ſaith he, am I:
The prophet Sophony writeth thus, I will viſite ech arrogancie:
In Eccleſiaſticus I reede, Thy ſelfe exalt not in thy deede.

The eight of Iohn doth beare record, No man can anie thing receiue
But it proceedeth from the Lord, who euerie perfect gift doth giue:
And if ech gift from him proceed, to glorie than what haue we need?

All fleſh is hay, and as a flower his glorie all away ſhall paſſe,
The prophet ſaith, and in one houre (as Iob doth tell) conſume to graſſe:
All pride (as Salomon doth write) is abhominable in Gods ſight.

Lucifer once an angell bright, for pride was throwen downe to hell:
Antiochus for all his might, Herod who did in pride excell,
Through pride with plagues moſt miſerably, tormented were or they did (die.

Nabuchodonozar the King God plucked downe from regall ſeate,
And for his pride in euerie thing became a beaſt, and graſſe did eate:
And manie mightie Kings beſide, the Lord hath plagued for their pride.

Abandon then this wicked pride which God himſelfe doth ſo abhorre,
Or els it cannot be denide but God will plague vs heeretofore:
For euerie gift giue God the fame, and honor ſtill his holie name.

FINIS.

* NON · IN · HOMINVM · CONSTAT · IVRBA · SED · NVMINE · PALMA ::

THE HISTORIE OF THE
conquests of the vertuous conquerour IVDAS MACHABEVS.

I Am Iudas Machabeus, in might surpassing all,
I found not yet in Israell for strength my peregall:
A Lion fierce I was in field, as holie scriptures say,
And as a raging Lions whelpe that roreth at his pray:
An enimie to wicked men, a frend vnto the good:
A plague and scourge to euerie such as shed the guiltlesse bloud.
A Iew I am of noble birth, I saw the liuing God,
For feare of me the heathen fled as children from the rod:
I am the same which did redeeme all Israell from thrall,
Euen he whom God the Lord did raise, Antiochus pride to appall:
Who had the land of Israell most cruellie oppressed,
The citie of Ierusalem both sacked and distressed:
The temples robbed and destroide, and thousands pitcouslie
Murthered, and led away into captiuitie:
And placed wicked officers throughout the land likewise,
His heathenish lawes to maintaine, and Gods lawes to despise:
As Phillip in Ierusalem a cruell man of mind,
Andromichus, and Menelaus at garrison assignd:
And Apollonius a prince of Syria also,
With two and twentie thousand men, who wrought the Iewes much (wo,
And murthered them in wilfull wise without desert or cause,
Compelling such as did remaine to obey his wicked lawes:
Whose bloodie hand to euitate, I was constraind to flie
Vnto the woods and wildernesse, in desart caues to lie,
With manie of my brethren mo, where we consulted long
Amongst our selues what we should do for to redresse this wrong:
At last, with one consent we agréd couragiouslie to stand
Against the wicked heathen sort, who then possest the land:
And béeing about six thousand men I tooke the charge on me,
By one accord chose and elect their captaine chiefe to be,
To fight it out with manlie hart, and after praiers made

I marched forward with my folke the heathen to inuade:
And met with Apolonius, and slew him with my hand,
And all his people more and lesse, which then with me did stand:
His sword I toke amid the strife perforce from him away,
And therewith fought during my life in manie a bloodie fray.
The citie of Ierusalem I wan from them againe,
And slew the heathen vpon heaps which did therein remaine.
I toke the temple, and did clense and purifie the same,
I did destroy the altars which they builded there with shame:
And since erected altars new, as they had beene of yore,
And offered thereon sacrifice, and incense, as before.
I ouercame Seron in fight, with thousands of his traine,
By me eight hundreth of his men were in one battell slaine.
Gorgias the captaine great I put to shamefull flight,
And slew there thoulands with the sword, and by Gods onely might,
Who sent his angels from aboue armed in glistering gold
On horsebacke with a speare in hand, most terrible to behold.
The valiant captaine Lysias of King Antiochus,
With threescore thousand in one troupe, though it be wonderous,
I conquered, and put to flight, and slew fiue thousand tho,
Yet had I to encounter them ten thousand and no mo.
In Idumea I did kill of heathens manie a man:
At Arabathan in like sort great slaughter I began.
Gazer, Maspha and Casbon I did destroy with fire,
Mageth, Bosor: for they did gainst Israel conspire,
The gate of Iamnia I did burne, and manie a ship therein,
And all that dwelt in Ioppa I plagued for their sin.
Timotheus with his Asia troupe I met, and through Gods aide
Which he from heauen sent to me, my foes were so dismaide
And confounded with such darkenesse of lightning on them throwen,
And fierie darts of present death, that therewith they fell downe
For feare: where twentie thousand men and fiue hundreth were slaine
Of footemen and of horsemen more fix hundreth on the plaine:
And Timotheus beeing fled, and in a corner found,
With Cereas his brother hid, I slew with manie a wound.
Ephron and Carnaym eke strong cities I did sacke,
And euerie male therein with sword did bring to vtter wracke:
Yea, so great a multitude, that euerie street therein
Was couerd with dead carcases, so God did plague their sin.

The citie Hebron in like sort and Azot I did burne,
With altars, idols, images, which heathen did adorne.
The puisant King Antiochus I met with all his traine,
And slew six hundreth of his men (as scripture telleth plaine:)
His captaine Nicanor also I kild at Bethoron,
And all his soldiours in one day, there scaped neuer a one:
His head and hand I did cut off, bearing of the Jewes abhord,
His tong I cast vnto the fowles, which did blaspheme the Lord.
Thus ruled I in Israel with honor and renowne,
And wan the palme of victorie in countrie, field, and towne.
At last it was my fatall lot amid my foes to die,
Euen as the Lord decreed had vpon my destinie
For secret causes to him knowen, which must be accomplished:
My death was this, as you may find in scripture if you reed.
When King Demetrius vnderstood how Nicanor was slaine,
He sent his captaine Bachydes to Iuda land againe
With two and twentie thousand men well furnished to fight,
With whom, my countrie to defend, I met as it was right,
Accompanied but with a few, three thousand and no mo,
Whereof the most part stole away or I to fight did go,
And left me there all desolate, but with eight hundreth men:
For which, my doubtfull mind was tost with extreme trouble then:
Yet chusing rather losse of life than cowardlie to flie,
I gaue the onset on my foes, and fought it valiantlie
From morning vntill it was night, where I slew manie a one,
But what against so great an host could I preuaile alone:
There was I killed in the field, yet to my lasting fame:
Far better is to die renownd, than for to liue in shame.
Thus in defence of God his lawes I shed my vitall blood,
Wherein (I trust) I pleasd the Lord, and did my countrie good.
My mangled corps conueied was, out of the bloodie field,
And to the citie of Modin brought his due to earth to yeeld:
Whereas the same enterred was after the world was made
Foure thousand saue one hundreth yeeres (in authors as I reade:)
And before Christs birth also about two and threescore,
When I was dead all Israel was in a great vprore.

FINIS.

An Example of this former Historie.

THe wisedome, wit, nor pollicy, the courage, strength, nor worthines,
The might, nor magnanimitie, the manlie force, nor valiantnes
Of anie wight, but litle may
Preuaile, if God be not his stay.

A vaine thing is a horse (god wot) to saue mans life, the speare nor shield,
Nor thundering cracks of cannon shot rare or neuer winnes the field,
Except the Lord God present be,
Who giueth euerie victorie.

What doth preuaile the Elephant, so fierce and terrible in sight,
Or numbers great of men to daunt the enimy through their own might,
Since victorie scripture concludes,
Consisteth not in multitudes?

But in the Lord the God of hosts, who made the earth and heauen hie,
And onely ruleth in all coasts, and giueth euerie victorie:
As by examples permanent
Vnto this day is euident.

Senacharib of Assyria King, manie thousands in one rout
Of the Assyrians did bring, King Hezekiah to roote out:
But for that he blasphemed God,
He sharpelie felt his heauie rod.

For in one night the Lord did slay an hundreth fourescore fiue thousand
Of the Assyrians, which then lay of purpose to inuade the land,
And draue Senacharib againe
To Niniuch where he was slaine.

King Pharao with a mightie host the Israelits pursued apace,
But in the seas his life he lost, and all his people in the chase:

Yet Israel through it did passe,
For God the Lord their leader was.

The great Antiochus also (as plaine this historie doth expresse)
With thousands and with millions mo, this worthie Iudas did distresse:
And onely with six thousand men,
For why, the Lord fought for him then.

Bicause his onely quarrell was in the defence of God his lawes,
For which, it after came to passe that God did helpe them in ech cause:
And gaue him victorie with fame,
Which purchast him a lasting name.

Wherefore you worthie warriors all, no quarrell take but it be right:
Learne warilie by others fall, to serue the conquerour of might,
Who doth reward most liberallie
His soldiours with victorie.

Fight valiantly in the defence of his pure lawes and ordinance:
The kingdome shall not be long hence, whereto the Lord shall you ad-
For euermore in blisse to dwell, (uance,
The ioies whereof no toong can tell.

FINIS.

MORI·QVAM·VITAM·DEGERE·PRO·PRA

THE HISTORIE OF THE

conquests of the famous conquerour

IVLIVS CAESAR.

I Am the worthie conquerour, the prince of high renowne:
Who first by name of Emperour, did weare the Roman crowne:
And Iulius Cæsar is my name, well knowne both farre and neere:
A Painim I am in beleefe, I reigned in the yeere
Since the creation of the world, foure thousand fully told,
Dedncting fourescore yeeres and two by count of writers old,
And fortie yeeres before Christs birth. I am the verie same,
Which wan great victories in Spaine to my perpetuall fame:
And conquered most valiantly the people all and summe
Where I did passe: euen vnto the sea Oceanum,
And marched into Gallia, which now is called France:
And into Germanie also mine honor to aduance.
And conquered the Heluetians and Latobrigians,
Tulingians and Rauratians, with warlike Boyans:
And ouercame the Marcomans, the strong Seducians,
The Haruds, Tribocks, Vangians and the Sueuians:
The Nemets, Sedunes, Veragrines: the Ambiliats and Venets:
The Diablinters, Digerons: the Tarbels and Naunets:
The Osisenes and Tarrusats: the Vocats and Pretians:
The Flustrats, Garites, and Garumnes, the famous Ansians,
The Sibuzsates and Cocosats, the Aulerks fierce in field:
And did compell Viridouix, their captaine stout to yeeld,
And slue in numbers infinite, the Morines, and Treuires,
Menapians and Lexobians, and burnt their townes with fires.
And strong Induciomarus kild the captaine with my hand,
The Belgies, Neruians, Aduaticks, and chased them from their land.
And Acco prince of the Senons, did kill in knightlie wise
Condrosies, Segnies, Eburons, which did against me rise.
And ouercame the Brittons fierce, to my perpetuall fame:
And caused Cassibelan their King pay tribute for the same.

And

And ſorced Catiuulcus king, ſor ſeare, with poiſons ſorce
By drinke to worke his fatall fine to worke his trembling corſe:
And vanquiſhed Lytauicus, a valiant man in fight:
The citie of Genabum eke did ſacke through my great might.
The citie Valaundunum, and Nouiodunum tw
I cauſd to yéeld vp vnto me, my will with them to dw:
And battered Auaricum vnto the verie ground,
And fortie thouſand ſlew therein with manie a mortall wound.
King Theutomatus I ſubdued Camalogenus kild
Eporidorix, Cotus, Canarill, toke priſoners in the field,
Sedulius prince of Lemouix, I at Alexia ſlew,
Vergaſsilaunus toke aliue, and cauſd thouſands to rew:
Threéſcore banners and fourténe at one conflict I wan
With twentie thouſand priſoners, and manie a noble man,
The captaine of Bellouocans a man of worthy fame:
In marſhall wiſe I conquered which Corbey had to name:
Drapes, Surus, Suturuate, renowmed captaines all,
With bloody ſword I ouercame, and made their men to thrall.
Luctarius a valiant prince, I chaſt ſo narrowlie,
That he through famine was conſtraind for want of food to die.
And verſing Etorix alſo a great and famous king:
His owne ſoldiers, I forſt to me as priſoners to bring.
And Pompei proud the Romane prince in manie a bloodie broile:
I chaſt abroad from place to place and gaue him manie a foile.
And at Pharſalia in fight I killed in one daie
Manie thouſandes of his men where he in poore aray
Out of the campe conueyed him ſelfe in Egypt finally
Through treaſons traine, his life he loſt moſt miſerably.
The King of Ægypt I ſubdued, and in his ſeate did place
His ſiſter Cleopatra Quéene, who in my fauour was
And Pharnaſes of Pontus King I chaſed from his land,
And Iuba King of Africa I conquered with my hand.
And tooke ſtrong cities in the ſame, whoſe names at large appeare,
Where diuerſe of mine enemies did kill themſelues for feare.
The ſonnes of Pompei with their power I ouercame in field,
Séeking to venge their fathers death with many a ſpeare and ſhield.
I came vnto the gates of Rome, which were ſhut me againe
And for I ſhould not enter in I made my paſſage playne:
And battered them vnto the ground, and made the townes men thrall,

Who

Who yéelded them on trembling knées, to be my liege men all,
Whereas I gouerned in peace, and ruled as I would,
Of Europe all, as soueraigne Lord, as Mars in battell bould.
Hauing subdued with my might, in Gaule and Germanie
Eight hundred stately townes at least, and conquered valiantlie
Three hundred seuerall nations, in lesse than ten yéeres space,
So highlie I estéemed was, in fawning fortunes grace.
But lo, whom millions could not match, nor all Europa staine:
Not Mars himselfe, were he aliue the same hath enuie slaine,
Whose secret traines, and hidden traps, vnwares preuented mée
With sodaine death, by foes conspird amid my iolitée.
For as I in the Senate sat, with many other mo,
By Cassius and Brutus hands, there I was murthered tho,
With bodkins, kniues, and daggers sharpe, when I did déeme no ill
They fell vpon me sodainlie, and thus they did me kill,
My carcase after Painims rites, in Rome enterred was:
Lo, thus the glorie of the world doth were awaie, and passe.

FINIS.

An Example of this former Historie.

THe hautie and ambitious mind desireth daily to aspire:
Vaine glorie doth his eies so blind, and set his hart on such a fire,
Till enuie come and plucke him downe, and rifle him of his renowne.

As by example may appeere of this most puissant conquerer,
Who for his conquests far and neere was in his daies the onlie flower:
Yet such was his ambition, to clime vp to promotion.

That he enuied at other men, who were in rule and dignitie:
Seeking to suppresse them then, for feare of coequalitie.
For hautinesse doth euer hate, the fellowship of any mate.

And onlie this procured the iar of mortall war, and deadlie strife
Betweene Pompeius and Cæsar, which was the losse of manie a life.
And brought to ruine vtterlie, the state of the whole monarchie.

For Pompei died most miserablie, as you haue heard declared before:
Cæsar for all his victorie through enuie also was forlore.
The measure he to others gaue, the same did shape his fatall graue.

Thus may you see where enuie is what mortall plagues therwith ensue:
How fickle is the vading blisse of enuious men appeereth true.
And how vnhappie is the land, where enuie hath the vpper hand.

Through enuie Herod long ago did manie a harmelesse infant kill.
Enuie procured Saule also to seeke king Dauid for to spill.
Through enuie eeke was Abel slaine, and murdered by wicked Caine.

Through enuie Christ our sauior accused was, and put to death.
Through enuie Satan did procure, to mortall man the losse of breath.
What plague on earth is greater then, where enuie reigneth amongst (men,

FINIS.

HONORE·MORI·QVAM·VITAM·DEGERE·PRO·PRESTAT

THE HISTORIE OF THE conquests of the noble conquerour ARTHVR.

OF Brutus blood in Brittaine borne I Arthur am by name:
Through christendome & heathenes well knowne is my fame.
In Jesus Christ I do beleeue, I am a Christian borne:
The father, sonne, and holie ghost, one God, I do adorne.
In the foure hundreth ninetie yeere ouer Brittaine I did raigne,
After Christ my sauiours birth, what time I did maintaine
The fellowship of the table round, so famous in those daies,
Whereat a hundreth noble knights and fiftie sate alwaies:
Who for their fame in martiall feats (as yet bookes do record)
Amongst all kind of nations were feared through the world.
In the castell of Tintagill King Vter me begate
On Igrayne the beautifull, a Ladie of high estate.
And when I was fifteene yeeres old, then was I crowned King,
All Brittaine being in vprore I did to quiet bring,
And draue the Saxons from the realme, who did vsurpe the land,
And conquered through manly mart all Scotland with my hand.
The Orcades eke I ouercame, and Ilands all about,
Which on the Ocean seas do lie, with manie nations stout:
Ireland, Norway, and Denmarke, these countries wan I all:
Gutland, and Island also, and made their Kings my thrall.
King Bladulfe, and King Collegrine, both two I slew in fight:
And forst Cheldrike of Almayne King to take his death by flight:
And Lot the King of Orkeney I brought to deepe distresse,
With manie a valiant knight with him, which came me to suppresse.
I conquered all Gallia, which now is called Fraunce,
And slew the hardie Froll in field my honour to aduaunce.
The ouglie Giant Dinabus so horrible to vew,
Which in Saint Bernards mount did lie, through force of arms I slew.
And Lucius the Emperour great of Rome, I brought to wracke,
With thousands mo, whom feare of death had forst to turne their backe

Fiue kings of Painims I did kill amid that bloodie strife,
Beside the Emperour himselfe, who also lost his life:
Whose carcase I did send to Rome, clad poorelie in a bere,
And after I did passe Mount Ioy: the nert approching yere
I came to Rome, where I was met right as a conquerour,
By all the Senate solemnlie, and crowned Emperour.
One winter there I made abode, then word to me was brought,
How Mordred had vsurpt the crowne, what treason he had wrought
At home in Brittaine with my Quene, wherefore, I came with spéd
To Brittaine backe with all my power, to quite that traiterous déed:
And as at Sandwich I did land, there Mordred me withstood,
Yet landed I at length, but with effusion of much blod:
For there my nephew Gawin died, béing wounded on that sore,
Which Launcelot du lake in fight had giuen him before.
Thence chased I Mordred away, he fled to London right:
From London to Winchester: thence, to Cornewal tooke his flight.
And still I did pursue with spéd, till at the last we met,
Where by accord the day of fight appointed was, and set
Betwene vs both, and at the time we encountred in the field
With manie a noble knight to trie it out, with speare and shield:
Where we did fight so mortallie of life ech to depriue,
That of an hundreth thousand men scarce one was left on liue.
There all the traitors men were slaine, not one escapt away,
There died all my valiant knights (alas the dolefull day:)
There all the noble chiualrie of Brittaine tooke their end:
See how vncertaine is their state, which do on fate depend.
There slew I Mordred with my hands, the causer of this strife,
And there my selfe receiud the wound which tooke away my life:
But yet I went from thence aliue to be cured againe,
To the vale of Auillion (as Chronicles write plaine.)
And afterwards was neuer séene, nor what became of mée
Was neuer knowen vnto this day, for anie certaintée.
I raigned two and twentie yeres in honour and much fame,
And thus by death am sodainlie depriued of the same.

FINIS.

An Example of this former Hiſtorie.

THe liking of vnlawfull luſt, whereto this worthie was inclind,
Depriued him by iudgment iuſt, from life and kingdome (as I find)
And threw him downe moſt ſodainlie, amid his fame and victorie.

Whereby Gods plague and puniſhment vpon adulterers is ſeene,
Whom ſodainly he doth preuent with ſharpe correction in his teene:
The proofe thereof no leſſe doth tell, of his inceſt, beeing wayed well.

For Mordred his fatall ſo, he did beget inceſtuouſly,
Vnto his vtter ouerthrow, on his owne ſiſter wickedly:
And thus the father was forlorne, through his ſons force in inceſt borne.

A good example to bewray the due reward of euerie vice,
Thy ſinnes (the ſcriptures plainly ſay) ſhal thee condemne before thine eies:
And likewiſe he the death ſhal die, who doth commit adulterie.

Was not the world once ouerflowen for this offence of lauiſh luſt?
Sodom and Gomor ouerthrowen with fire and brimſtone vnto duſt?
Was not Sichem through luſt deſtroide, and all his cittie ſore annoide?

Died not Ammon through his inceſt? and was not Abſalon eke ſpilt
Through lecherie, (as is expreſt?) and died not Abner through this gilt?
And what inceſtuous ſeed by Lot, vpon his daughters was begot?

Lewd luſt did Hollofernes kil, through luſt the Iudges loſt their life,
Bicauſe they might not haue their wil accompliſht on Ioakims wife:
What plagues did fal on Beniamin, onely through luſt that filthie ſin?

Thus may you ſee, of lecherie the puniſhment and due reward,
Then flie far from ſuch miſerie, and therevnto take no regard:
Gods plague is ſore if he begin, and death is the reward of ſin.

FINIS.

MORTEM · FAMA · MANEBIT :· * SPLENDA · CRVDELEM · POST ·

THE HISTORIE OF THE conquests of the mightie conquerour CHARLES the great.

I Am the Emperour Charlemaine, surnamed Charles the great,
I reigned six and fortie yeares as King in roiall seat.
Both King and Emperour also of kingdoms manie one:
I am a Christian, and beleeue in Jesus Christ alone.
The Father and the holie Ghost, one God in Trinitie,
Which made both heauen and the earth, and liueth eternallie.
My fathers name Pipinus was, in Inglehem also,
In the countie of Palatine my mother bare me tho,
But little from the citie Meutz. My fame and worthinesse
Is knowne well through Christendome, and also heathenesse.
I warred against the Sarracens in Gascoine manie a daie,
And caused them to yéld and turne vnto the Christian laie.
The Saxons fierce I did pursue for thirtie winters space,
And at the last constrained them on knées to sue for grace:
And to my Empire to obey, and christian faith to take,
And eke their Painims false beleefe, for euer to forsake.
King Desiderius I subdued, with meny a Lumbard mo,
As he was marching towards Rome, to worke Italians wo,
And saued Rome and Italy, from danger of the fire:
Whose spoile, this king of Lumbards did malitiouslie conspire.
And laid him, his children, and his wife in prison strong,
At Liege the citie great, whereas they all remained long.
I tooke all Lumbardie by force with famous victorie,
And placed officers therein to gouerne vnder mée.
Tassilo, Duke of Baiarland, I conquered in fight,
His men of wars I ouerthrew: his sonne (a noble knight)
Renowmed through his manlie acts, and feats of chiualrie,
I ouercame with mine owne hands in battell valiantlie.
The bishop Leo I restord vnto the dignitée,
Whom Romans had exiled Rome, when he fled vnto mée.
All Italie I brought perforce to my obeisance,

Where

Where I slew manie doughtie knights, with dent of deadlie launce,
Eight yéres I warred in Hungarie against those nations stout,
And ceased not till finallie I rooted them all out.
From whence I brought abundance great of gold and siluer bright:
And therewith highlie did aduance and préfer manie a knight,
Lecho king of Behemie, I vanquished in field
Both he, and all his subiects did to my subiection yéeld.
All France I had vnder my power, all Germanie was myne:
And all the countries that doe lie vpon the riuer Rhyne.
In France I held long wars and great against foure kings of fame,
Who were the Duke of Dordons sonnes, at last I did them tame.
In Rome I was crowned Emperour, whereby the monarchie
Translated was from Rome vnto my countrey Germanie.
I was both king and Emperour of all the west empire,
And brought the same to quiet state, what should I more desire?
All the kings through Christendome I might command at will:
It laie in me as souereigne Lord to pardon or to spill.
When I had thus triumphantlie obtained what I would:
I was content to liue at rest, bicause I waxed old.
And then I led in quietnesse the last part of my life,
Redressing wrong, maintaining peace, suppressing euerie strife.
In which time I did build and found three Universities
Of fame, in Italie and France, whose seuerall names be these:
Bononie and Padua, which lie in Italie,
And Paris the chiefe towne of France, these founded were by me.
In fine as euerie mortall wight to death must yéeld his due,
At Aken so I changed life, I could it not eschue.
When I had liued seuentéene yeres and two accounted iust:
My bodie was enterd in earth, where it consumes to dust:
In the yéere after Christ his birth eight hundered and mo
By true account of authors old, full seuentie and two.

FINIS.

An Example of this former Hiſtorie.

THe bliſſe and long felicitie, which here this worthie did enioie
Through palme of famous victory raining moſt like a princely boy,
Foreſheweth vnto euery wight, the vertues of this noble knight.

The zeale he bare to learnings lore, his life alſo declares the ſame,
And God aduanced him therefore, with much increaſe of daily fame,
And held him vp in his renown, that no foes forſe could pluck him down

For God will alwaies his defend, and them direct in euery cauſe:
He giues long life and happie end to ſuch as doe obſerue his lawes:
In whom he doth good workes begin, he wil continue them therein.

FINIS.

IVVENILIBVS · ANNIS · · QVI · FAMAM · QVERIT · VIGILET ·

THE HISTORIE OF THE conquests of the puissant conquerour GVY.

I Am Guy the Barron bold, of déede the doughtiest knight
That in my daies in England was, with shield or speare in fight.
An English man I am by birth, in faith a Christian true:
The wicked lawes of Infidels I vtterlie eschue.
Nine hundreth twentie yéeres and one after Christ his birth,
When King Athelstone ware the crowne, I liued vpon earth.
Sometime I was of Warwicke Earle, and (for to say the truth)
A Ladies loue did me constraine to trauell in my youth
To win me fame in feats of armes, in strange and sundrie lands,
Where I atchieued for hir sake great conquests with my hands.
First I saild to Normandie, and there I wan in fight
The Emperours daughter of Almaine from manie a worthie knight.
Also in Lumbardie my selfe, with thrée knights and no more,
Slew sixtéene Lumbards beeing ambusht to murder me before,
Through false Duke Ottons trecherie, who bare me mortall hate,
Cause of the wound I gaue to him in Normandie of late.
Then passed I the seas to Greece, to helpe the Emperour right
Against the mightie Souldans host of Persia to fight:
Where I did kill of Sarracens and Painims manie a man,
And slew the Souldans cousin eke, who had to name Coldran.
And Eskeldart a famous knight to death I did pursew:
And Elman King of Tire also, most horrible to vew.
I went vnto the Souldans host, vpon ambassage sent,
And brought his head away with me, hauing kild him in his tent.
There was a Dragon in that land, which also I did slay,
As he a Lion did pursue most fiercely by the way.
To Almaine thence I did retire, and thence to Loraine right,
Where I the Duke of Painie kild, his treason to requight.
Then into England I did saile to wed Phelis the bright,
For loue of whom I trauelled so far, to trie my might.
And when I had espoused hir, I staide but fortie daies,

Vntill I left the Ladie faire, and went from hir my waies,
Vnto the seas in pilgrime sort my voyage for to take,
Euen vnto the holie land for Jesus Christ his sake.
Where I Earle Ionas did redéme, and all his sonnes fifténe:
Who with the cruell Sarisins in prison long had béne.
I slew the Giant Amerant, in battell hand to hand:
And doughtie Barnard killed eke, and Duke of Painie land.
And Othens came into England, and there with Colbrand fought:
An vglie Giant whom the Danes, had for their champion sought,
And ouercame him in the field, and slue him valiantlie:
And thereby did release the land from tribute bitterlie.
And afterwards did offer vp the weapon solemnlie
In Winchester, wherewith I fought in sight of manie an eie.
In Windsor forrest I did kill a Bore of passing strength,
Whose like in England neuer was for highnes, breadth, and length.
Some of his bones in Warwicke yet, within the castle lie:
One of his shields vnto this daie doth hang in Couentrie.
I slew also in Dunsmore heath a monsterous wild beast,
Cald the Dun cow of Dunsmore, which manie men oppressed:
Hir bones also in Warwicke lie yet, for a monument,
Which vnto euerie loker on a wonder may present.
And in Northumberland I did a Dragon fell destroie,
Which did both men and beasts oppresse and countrey sore annoie.
And then to Warwicke came againe, but there I was not knowne:
Wherefore I led an Hermits life, a mile out of the towne.
Where with my hands I hewed a house, out of a rocke of stone,
And liued as a Palmer poore within that caue alone:
And dailie came to seeke my food vnto my castell gate,
Not knowne of my louing wife, which mourned for hir mate,
Till at the last I fell sore sicke, and found that I must die,
I sent to hir a ring, by which she knew me presentlie:
And so repairing to the caue, before I gaue the ghost,
She closed vp my dieng eies, whom once I loued most.
Thus dreadfull death did me arrest, and laid my corps in graue,
Thus as a Pilgrime died I, and all my soule to saue.
My bodie in Warwicke lieth yet, though now consumed to mould:
My stature there engraud in stone this day you may behould.

FINIS.

An Example of this former Historie.

THe affection of impatient loue procurd this knight to take
His manlie forse, & might to proue, in many a strang & forren land:
Whereby it came to passe that he, aduanced was exceedinglie.

For through his warlike feates of fame, and marshall magnanimitie,
He wan to wife a passing dame, being borne of high nobilitie.
With Earledoms two which by hir right, descended to this noble knight.

But see in him example rare, when he the ladie wedded had:
With hir the storie doth declare, but fortie daies his life he lad,
Till leauing all in poore araie, on pilgrimage he tooke the waie

Towards Ierusalem to obtaine remission for his sinfull life,
Bicause he had so manie slaine, for loue of hir which was his wife,
And not for Iesus Christ his sake, for which he thoght amends to make.

With punishing his bodie so, as then it was the wonted vse,
Which of repentance plain doth sho a token, thogh through great abuse,
For want of knowledge of the truth, of holie scriptures: the more ruth.

And afterwards at his returne, all worldly pleasures he defied,
In pouertie he did bemourne his youthfull daies, and so he died:
All these declare a contrite hart, which God accepted in good part.

Finis huius libri.